

STATE SENATOR • MARTHA G. SCOTT

Scott Press Release



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SEN. SCOTT PRAISES SENATE COLLEAGUES' SUPPORT OF MANDATORY CERVICAL CANCER VACCINATION

LANSING – Sen. Martha G. Scott (D-Highland Park) praised today's introduction of bipartisan legislation that will require all girls entering sixth grade to receive vaccinations which will protect against the cervical cancer virus. Senate Bills 1416 and 1417 will require that a vaccine for the human papillomavirus (HPV) be added to Michigan public schools and academies' required immunization schedules for next year. The vaccine has proven 100 percent effective at preventing disease from the two HPV types responsible for 70 percent of all cervical cancers.

"This is a huge positive step in cancer prevention for girls and women," Sen. Scott said. "By offering a vaccine that actually prevents cancer, we are offering protection from a virulent and often deadly disease to an entire generation of young girls."

While the legislation follows recent FDA approval of the vaccine for girls and women between nine and 26, the Senate bills will include immunizations for girls aged 11 and 12. As with similar school-required vaccines, parents/guardians can exempt children from required vaccines for medical, religious, or philosophical reasons.

The legislation has received unanimous support of all women serving in the Michigan State Senate. It is expected to come before the Senate for a vote before the end of September.

While some 45 states have introduced similar legislation to address this issue, Michigan is the first state to require the vaccine for school entry.

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Senator Martha G. Scott represents the 2nd Senate District, which includes areas of Detroit and the cities of Hamtramck, Harper Woods, Highland Park and all of the Grosse Pointes. She serves on the Senate Appropriations Committee.